United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/276

Meeting of States Parties

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Decision regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

The Meeting of States Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for coastal States and the international community as a whole,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts undertaken by the Commission to consider the submissions by coastal States in a timely, efficient and effective manner,

Mindful of the workload of the Commission owing to a large number of submissions already made and the number of submissions which are expected to be made in the future,

Recognizing the need to ensure that the Commission can effectively perform the functions entrusted to it under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, while maintaining its high level of quality and expertise,

Recalling the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties regarding the workload of the Commission (SPLOS/229), including the request to the Commission to consider meeting in New York for up to 26 weeks but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks a year,

Taking note with appreciation of the decisions by the Commission to hold, in both 2013 and 2014, three sessions of seven weeks each, including plenary meetings, for a total of 21 weeks of meetings of the Commission and its subcommissions, and to adopt new working arrangements for its subcommissions,

Recognizing the special challenges of developing States Parties whose experts are serving on the Commission, and, in this regard, the important role of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission,

Concerned about the implications of the workload of the Commission for the conditions of service of its members,

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Taking note of the results of an internal survey conducted by the Commission during its thirty-first session of the conditions of service of its members,

Concerned about the lack, or inadequacy, as appropriate, of medical insurance coverage of most members of the Commission while in performance of Commission duties at United Nations Headquarters and convinced that this issue requires urgent attention,

Recalling the decision of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties to establish an open-ended working group to consider the conditions of service of the members of the Commission stipulated in paragraph 77 of the report of the meeting (SPLOS/263),

Recalling also paragraph 71 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly reiterated the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts are serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties,

Recalling further paragraph 72 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly urged, in this regard, States to provide medical coverage for the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties and to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention,

Recalling paragraph 78 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore options for providing medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission from developing States, whose participation may be facilitated through the voluntary trust fund for the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, while in performance of Commission duties at United Nations Headquarters, and to circulate his findings to Member States in advance of the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,

Welcoming the work done by the open-ended working group to consider the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts are serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they have nominated while in performance of Commission duties, including the provision of medical coverage, and urges these States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the findings by the Secretary-General in response to the request in paragraph 78 of General Assembly resolution 68/70 regarding options for providing medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission from developing States, and invites the Secretary-General to continue his work in this regard as a matter of urgency, with a view to making his additional findings available by November 2014;

3. *Urges* the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to take any necessary measures in the light of these findings, which may include the extension of the terms of reference of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying

the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission;

4. *Also urges* States that are in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and, in this regard, welcomes recent contributions made or pledged by States Parties;

5. *Decides* to continue the consideration of other conditions of service of the members of the Commission stipulated in paragraph 77 of the report of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/263) within the open-ended working group;

6. *Also decides* to take up and review matters related to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission at the twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties under the item "Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf".